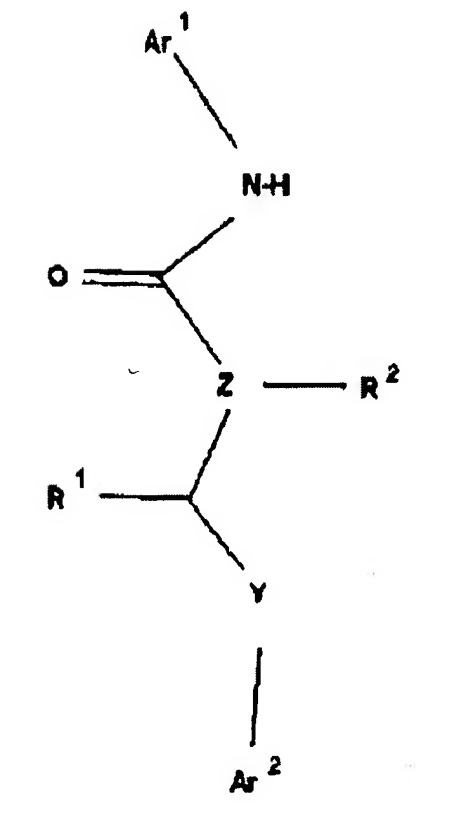
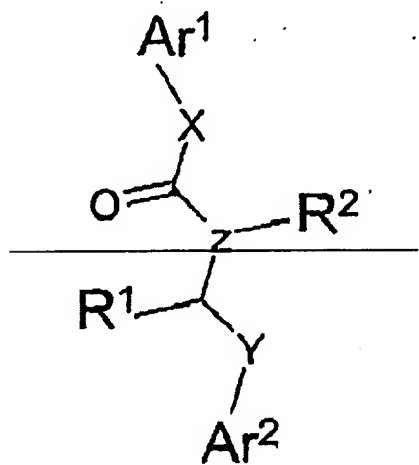


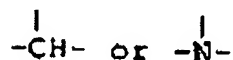
IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula I:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

z is selected from



~~x is selected from a valence bond, CH_2 , NH , S or O ;~~

~~Z is selected from $=\text{CH}$ or $=\text{N}$;~~

~~Y is selected from a valence bond or $-\text{CH}_2-$;~~

~~R2 is hydrogen or methyl and R1 is selected from $-\text{Q}-\text{CO}_2\text{H}$, $-\text{Q}-\text{CN}$, R1 is hydrogen or methyl and R2 is selected from H , $\text{Q}-\text{CO}_2\text{H}$, $\text{Q}-\text{H}$ tetrazol-5-yl, $\text{Q}-\text{CN}$, or $\text{Q}-\text{R5}$, wherein R5 is a functional group that is hydrolyzed to $-\text{CO}_2\text{H}$ in physiological conditions, wherein each Q is independently selected from a valence bond or an optionally substituted C1-3 alkylidene chain, wherein one or two non-adjacent methylene units of Q are optionally and independently replaced by $-\text{O}-$, $-\text{S}-$ or $-\text{NH}-$; or~~

R1 is hydrogen or methyl and R2 is selected from $\text{Q}-\text{CO}_2\text{H}$, $\text{Q}-\text{CN}$, wherein each Q is independently selected from a valence bond or an optionally substituted C1-3 alkylidene chain, wherein one or two non-adjacent methylene units of Q are optionally and independently replaced by $-\text{O}-$, $-\text{S}-$ or $-\text{NH}-$, but where R2 excludes $\text{Me}-\text{CH}(-\text{COOH})$;

~~Ar1 and Ar2 are independently selected from a 3-10 membered monocyclic or bicyclic saturated or unsaturated cycloalkyl, an ensemble of two 3-8 membered monocyclic rings covalently linked by a C , N , O or S atom, or 5-10 membered monocyclic or bicyclic aryl ring having 0-4 heteroatoms independently selected from nitrogen, oxygen, or sulphur, wherein Ar1 and/or Ar2 is optionally and independently substituted by one to four R3 groups and each R3 is independently selected from $-\text{R5}$ trifluoromethyl, $-\text{R6}-\text{R4}$, $-\text{R6}-\text{F}$, $-\text{R6}-\text{Cl}$, $-\text{R6}-\text{Br}$, $-\text{R6}-\text{J}$, $-\text{R6}-\text{NO}_2$, $-\text{R6}-\text{CN}$, $-\text{R6}-\text{O}-\text{R4}$, $-\text{R6}-(\text{CH}_2)_n-\text{O}-\text{R4}$ ($n=1,2,3,4,5,6,7$, or 8), $-\text{R6}-\text{S}-\text{R4}$, $-\text{R6}-\text{N}(\text{R4})_2$, $-\text{R6}-\text{NR4}-\text{CO}-\text{R4}$, $-\text{R6}-\text{NR4}-\text{CO}-\text{N}(\text{R4})_2$, $-\text{R6}-\text{NR4}-\text{CO}-\text{O}-\text{R4}$, $-\text{R6}-\text{CO}-\text{R4}$, $-\text{R6}-\text{CO}-\text{O}-\text{R4}$, $-\text{R6}-\text{CO}-\text{N}(\text{R4})_2$, $-\text{R6}-\text{O}-\text{CO}-\text{N}(\text{R4})_2$, $-\text{R6}-\text{SO}-\text{R4}$, $-\text{R6}-\text{SO}_2-\text{R4}$, $-\text{R6}-\text{SO}_2-\text{N}(\text{R4})_2$, $-\text{R6}-\text{NR4}-\text{SO}_2-\text{R4}$, $-\text{R6}-\text{NR4}-\text{SO}_2-\text{N}(\text{R4})_2$, $-\text{R6}-\text{CO}-\text{NR4}-\text{CO}-\text{R4}$, or $-\text{R6}-\text{CO}-\text{CH}_2-\text{CO}-\text{R}$ $-\text{R4}$, $-\text{F}$, $-\text{Cl}$, $-\text{Br}$, $-\text{J}$, $-\text{NO}_2$, $-\text{CN}$, $-\text{O}-\text{R4}$, $-(\text{CH}_2)_n-\text{O}-\text{R4}$ ($n=1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7$, or 8), $-\text{S}-\text{R4}$, $-\text{N}(\text{R4})_2$, $-\text{NR4}-\text{C}-\text{O}-\text{R4}$, $-\text{NR4}-\text{C}-\text{O}-\text{N}(\text{R4})_2$, $-\text{NR4}-\text{CO}-\text{C}-\text{R4}$, $-\text{COR4}$, $-\text{CO}-\text{O}-\text{R4}$, $-\text{C}-\text{O}-\text{N}(\text{R4})_2$, $-\text{O}-\text{CO}-\text{N}(\text{R4})_2$, $-\text{S}-\text{O}-\text{R4}$, $-\text{SO}_2-\text{R4}$, -~~

SO₂N(R₄)₂, -NR₄-SO₂R₄, -NR₄-SO₂N(R₄)₂, -CO-CO-R₄, or CO-CH₂-CO-R₄; wherein each R₄ is independently selected from hydrogen, or from an ~~optionally substituted~~ C1-6 aliphatic group, with the exception of 5-(3-chloro-4-methylanilino)-5-oxo-3-phenylpentanoic acid and 5-(2-fluoro-4-iodoanilino)-5-oxo-3-phenylpentanoic acid, ~~wherein R₆ is a valence bond or a bivalent spacer group, in particular C1-6 aliphatic group, and wherein two R₃ on adjacent positions on Ar₃ are optionally taken together to form a saturated, partially unsaturated, or fully unsaturated 4-6 membered ring having 0-3 heteroatoms independently selected from nitrogen, oxygen, or sulphur.~~

2. (Original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein Ar₁ and Ar₂ are independently 3-8 membered monocyclic, or 8-10 membered bicyclic cycloalkyl, or 5-6 membered monocyclic or 8-10 bicyclic aryl ring, or 5-6 membered monocyclic or 8-10 membered bicyclic heteroaryl ring having 1-4 heteroatoms.
3. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1, wherein Ar₁ and Ar₂ are independently selected from phenyl, indolyl, naphthyl, pyrimidinyl, pyridinyl, quinolyl, or isoquinolyl, wherein as an option Ar₁ and/or Ar₂ is substituted by 1-4 R₃ groups.
4. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 1, wherein X is a valence bond, Z is a nitrogen, Y is -CH₂-, R₂ is -H, and R₁ is selected from -Q-CO₂H, Q-1*H*-tetrazol-5-yl, -Q-CN, wherein each Q is independently selected from a valence bond or an optionally substituted C1-3 alkylidene chain, wherein one or two non-adjacent methylene units of Q are optionally and independently replaced by -O-, -S- or -NH-.
5. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 1, wherein X is a valence bond, Z is =CH-, Y is a valence bond, R₂ is -H, and R₁ is selected from -Q-CO₂H, Q-1*H*-tetrazol-5-yl, -Q-CN, wherein each Q is independently selected from a valence bond or an optionally substituted C1-3 alkylidene chain, wherein one or two non-adjacent methylene units of Q are optionally and independently replaced by -O-, -S- or -NH-.

6. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 1, wherein X is -NH-, Z is =CH-, Y is a valence bond, R2 is -H, and R1 is selected from -Q-CO₂H, ~~Q-1H-tetrazol-5-yl~~, -Q-CN, wherein each Q is independently selected from a valence bond or an optionally substituted C1-3 alkylidene chain, wherein one or two non-adjacent methylene units of Q are optionally and independently replaced by -O-, -S- or -NH-.

7. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1, wherein X is -NH-, Z is =CH-, Y is a valence bond, R1 is -H, and R2 is selected from -Q-CO₂H, ~~Q-1H-tetrazol-5-yl~~, -Q-CN, wherein each Q is independently selected from a valence bond or an optionally substituted C1-3 alkylidene chain, wherein one or two non-adjacent methylene units of Q are optionally and independently replaced by -O-, -S- or -NH-.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the compound of formula (1) ~~of claim 1~~ and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

10. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 9, ~~wherein~~ including a physiologically effective dose of the compound of formula (1) ~~and is mixed with~~ a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Withdrawn) A method for preventing or treating a disease related to an AGC kinase, comprising PDK1 or PKB, having an abnormal high or low activity, wherein a compound according to claim 1 or a pharmaceutical composition according to claim 9 is administered in a physiologically effective dose to an organism having the risk of obtaining the disease or suffering from the disease.

13. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 2, wherein Ar1 and Ar2 are independently selected from phenyl, indolyl, naphthyl, pyrimidinyl, pyridinyl, quinolyl, or isoquinolyl, wherein as an option Ar1 and/or Ar2 is substituted by 1-4 R3 groups.

14. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 2, wherein X is a valence bond, Z is a nitrogen, Y is $-\text{CH}_2-$, R2 is -H, and R1 is selected from $-\text{Q}-\text{CO}_2\text{H}$, Q-1*H*-tetrazol-5-yl, $-\text{Q}-\text{CN}$, wherein each Q is independently selected from a valence bond or an optionally substituted C1-3 alkylidene chain, wherein one or two non-adjacent methylene units of Q are optionally and independently replaced by -O-, -S- or -NH-.

15. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 3, wherein X is a valence bond, Z is a nitrogen, Y is $-\text{CH}_2-$, R2 is -H, and R1 is selected from $-\text{Q}-\text{CO}_2\text{H}$, Q-1*H*-tetrazol-5-yl, $-\text{Q}-\text{CN}$, wherein each Q is independently selected from a valence bond or an optionally substituted C1-3 alkylidene chain, wherein one or two non-adjacent methylene units of Q are optionally and independently replaced by -O-, -S- or -NH-.

16. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 2, wherein X is a valence bond, Z is $=\text{CH}-$, Y is a valence bond, R2 is -H, and R1 is selected from $-\text{Q}-\text{CO}_2\text{H}$, Q-1*H*-tetrazol-5-yl, $-\text{Q}-\text{CN}$, wherein each Q is independently selected from a valence bond or an optionally substituted C1-3 alkylidene chain, wherein one or two non-adjacent methylene units of Q are optionally and independently replaced by -O-, -S- or -NH-.

17. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 3, wherein X is a valence bond, Z is =CH-, Y is a valence bond, R2 is -H, and R1 is selected from -Q-CO₂H, Q-*1H*-tetrazol-5-yl, -Q-CN, wherein each Q is independently selected from a valence bond or an optionally substituted C1-3 alkylidene chain, wherein one or two non-adjacent methylene units of Q are optionally and independently replaced by -O-, -S- or -NH-.

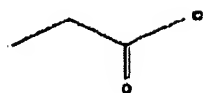
18. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 2, wherein X is -NH-, Z is =CH-, Y is a valence bond, R2 is -H, and R1 is selected from -Q-CO₂H, Q-*1H*-tetrazol-5-yl, -Q-CN, wherein each Q is independently selected from a valence bond or an optionally substituted C1-3 alkylidene chain, wherein one or two non-adjacent methylene units of Q are optionally and independently replaced by -O-, -S- or -NH-.

Please add new claims 19-22.

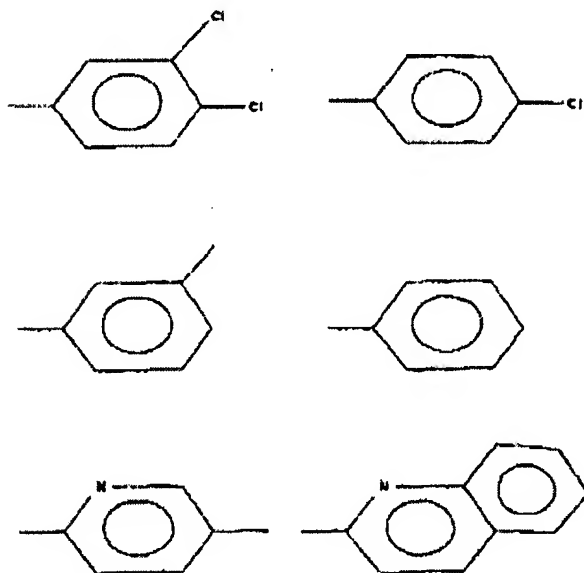
19. (New) A method of preparing a pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of diabetes, Alzheimer's Disease, Huntington's Disease, Parkinson's Disease, AIDS associated dementia, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (AML), multiple sclerosis (MS), schizophrenia, cardiomyocyte hypertrophy, ischemia, and baldness, comprising combining a physiologically effective dose of the compound of formula (1) and a pharmaceutically effective carrier.

20. (New) A compound according to claim 1, wherein Ar1 and Ar2 are independently selected from phenyl, indolyl, pyrimidinyl, pyridinyl, quinolyl, or isoquinolyl.

21. (New) A compound according to claim 1, wherein
Z is CH;
Y is a valence bond;
R1 and R2 are independently selected from hydrogen or a group

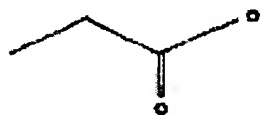


Ar1 and Ar2 are independently selected from

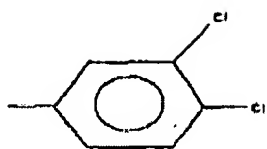


22. (New) A compound according to claim 1, wherein

Z is CH, Y is valence bond,
R1 is hydrogen, R2 is a group



, Ar1 is a group



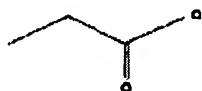
Ar2 is a group



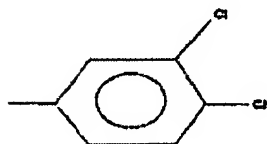
or

Z is CH, Y is a valence bond,

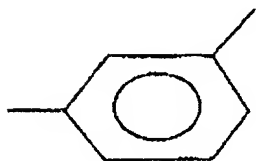
R1 is hydrogen, R2 is a group



Ar1 is a group



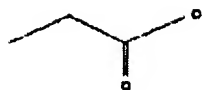
Ar2 is a group



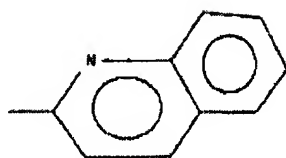
or

Z is CH, Y is a valence bond,

R2 is hydrogen, R1 is a group



Ar1 is a group



Ar2 is a group



or

Z is CH, Y is a valence bond,
R2 is hydrogen, R1 is a group



Ar is a group



Ar2 is a group

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